NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
June 18, 1999

Soil scientists converge on The Field Museum

The Field Museum hosted the 1999 Soil Ecology Society International Congress, May 23-26. Over 130 scientists and students from the U.S., Canada, Europe, South America, and Asia participated. The theme of the congress was "Out of the Black Box: Ecological Lessons from the Underground." **Greg Mueller, Pat Leacock,** and **John Paul Schmit** (Botany) presented data on their work investigating fungal diversity, and the potential negative impact that air pollution is having on it, in the Chicago Area. Diversity and interconnectedness among soil organisms was a recurring topic of the presentations, topics that are reflect the main messages of *Underground Adventure.*

A highlight of the event was the evening tour of *Underground Adventure* – the two hours allotted were not enough, and we had to "drag" people out of the exhibit. The reaction and comments of the participants were overwhelmingly positive; in short, they all loved it. The Society is preparing a plaque to be presented to the Museum stating their official approval of the exhibit!

This event was a great success thanks to the help of many individuals and departments in the Museum. Staff in Special Events, Housekeeping, AV, Corner Bakery, Security, and Visitor Services were terrific. **Dan Summers** and **Phil Parrillo** (Insects), **Margaret Baker** (Invertebrates), and **Qiuxin Wu** (Botany) gave tours of the collections. **Petra Sierwald** (Insects) gave sage advice based on past experiences. **Pat Leacock** and **Betty Strack** (Botany) provided invaluable assistance during the meeting. Finally, a very special thank you goes to **Sue Hamnik** (Botany) who made it all happen.

THANK YOU!

….to everybody who helped control the waterfall outside the Corner Bakery kitchen last Thursday! Thanks to quick thinking and a wonderful team effort by Housekeeping, Security, Visitor Services, Facility Planning, Corner Bakery and Amphibians and Reptiles, the Fish Division collections and offices were kept out of the flood. Despite a few leaks now and then, one can't help but feel we work in a special place with very special people.

With deep appreciation,
The Fish Division

FIELD NOTES

Week of June 21

Public Events/Special Events

Museum Open Until 8 p.m.
- Thursday

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tae Bo Class
- Monday 5 p.m.
  Ground Floor, East Stairwell

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday 5 p.m.
  Ground Floor, East Stairwell
  Thursday 5 p.m. Clrm A

Running Club
- Wednesday 5 p.m.
  Meets at West Door

ATTENTION MOVIE BUFFS

Call or stop by the Human Resources office for discounted movie tickets for Loews/Cineplex Odeon/Sony Theatres for only $5. (Check your newspaper to make sure discounted tickets may be used for your movie.) THERE IS AN EIGHT-WEEK DELAY FOR STAR WARS TICKETS.

Questions about educational assistance?

The next meeting of the Educational Assistance Committee will be on Wednesday, June 23, 1999.

Applications to receive reimbursement for certain educational expenses may be found in the Human Resources Office. Please forward applications to one of the committee members by that date. Committee members are:

Rayfield Drake, Computing Services
Karen Little, Finance
Carolyn Moon, Visitor Services
Francie Muraski-Stotz, Exhibits
Randell Strickland, Education
Carole Kasarda, Human Resources

Please feel free to call **Carole Kasarda** at ext. 7275 or any of the committee members if you have questions about the program.

Submitted by **Carole Kasarda**

Summer's around the corner!

This is a great time to get in shape four days a week right here at work:

Monday *	Tae Bo Class	5 p.m.	Ground Floor, East Stairwell
Tuesday*	Aerobics Class	5 p.m.	Ground Floor, East Stairwell
Wednesday	Running Club	5 p.m.	Meet at West Door
Thursday*	Aerobics Class	5 p.m.	Ground Floor, East Stairwell

*Classes will be held through the month of June to determine your interest.

After a work out, remember to take advantage of our new shower facilities right down the hall from the Cashier's Cage! If you have any questions, please call **Carole Kasarda** at ext. 7275.

Submitted by **Carole Kasarda**

Have you seen the new bicycle cage located in the Shipping area?

Please check it out! All Museum staff and volunteers should now park their bicycles in this area. Staff and volunteers are no longer allowed to bring or store bikes in their offices. Please contact the Security Equipment office at ext. 7982 to have your I.D. activated for access to this area. Thank you for your cooperation.

Submitted by **Ron Cundiff**

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Kusimba promoted

The Department of Anthropology is pleased to announce the promotion of **Chapurukha Kusimba** to Associate Curator for African Archeology and Ethnology. Chap's work has concentrated on uncovering new insights into the rise of states on the East Coast of Africa, and on the relationship between rural regions and urban centers throughout pre-colonial Africa. His recently published book *The Rise And Fall of Swahili States* (Altamira Press) is already being hailed as a landmark in African Archeology. Chap has also contributed to the growth of the African collections and is co-editor of a forthcoming volume on the significant Field Museum collection of Madagascar textiles.

Planetarium Parking until 2:00 p.m. ONLY

June 26

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THERE IS NO PARKING IN THE **NORTH LOT** or **THE EAST SOLDIER FIELD LOT ON JUNE 26.** **THE LOTS HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR THE WOMEN'S WORLD CUP.** **YOU MAY PARK AT THE PLANETARIUM PARKING LOT UNTIL 2:00 P.M. WITH YOUR DISCOUNT COUPON OR MONTHLY PARKING PASS.** IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO REMAIN IN THE LOT AFTER 2:00 P.M., YOU WILL NEED TO RE-ENTER THE PARKING LOTS AND PAY THE $10 PARKING EVENT FEE. SOLDIER FIELD IS NOT ACCEPTING DISCOUNT COUPONS OR MONTHLY PASSES.

WE ARE ENCOURAGING STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS TO TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. IN ADDITION, WE ASK THAT VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE NOT GIVING PUBLIC PROGRAMS TO COME ANOTHER DAY. EMPLOYEE PARKING WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER 2:00 P.M. IN THE WEST LOT ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS AS PARKING SPACES PERMIT. EMPLOYEE PARKING WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER 2:00 P.M. IN THE WEST LOT ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS AS PARKING SPACES PERMIT.

If you have any questions, please call ext. 7911

FAN MAIL

To Whom It May Concern:

We want to thank you so much for giving us the experience of a lifetime. We had so much fun and learned so much at the Dozin' With The Dinos. The workshops were excellent, the performance was entertaining (the kids are still singing the songs and doing the earthworm shuffle), and the people were extraordinary. Every one of your staff was kind, informative, and pleasant. We went through the Egyptian exhibit with our flashlights at least three times and were quite privileged to see Sue's bones up close and personal (we had her all to ourselves). We slept with the "rodents and rabbits" and awoke to the sound of whales, it was wonderful. Thank you for your generosity and your kindness. We hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,
The Glowacz Family
Mary Anne, Jim, Sean, Derek, Ryan, Mary, and Megan

Submitted by **Beth Crownover**

Chicago National Science Olympiad: the best ever!!

Hi! I am a student at Rising Starr Middle School. This is our second year as a team, and none of us were really expecting to go to Nationals. I am so glad we did. The week my team was in Chicago was the best of my life. Thank you so much for making all this possible. CNSO was an incredible experience!

Caitlin Clarke
Fayetteville, GA

Thanks for a FANTASTIC tournament. It was SO well organized! Fantastic programs and wonderful volunteers (and lots of them!) This was my 6th Nationals and I can honestly say that this was the most professionally run of them all.

Thanks again!
Lisa Snyder
Wyoming State Director (and Division B coach)

Hi! I am from Thomas Jefferson Middle School and participated in the national competition. I just want to thank you for all the time and planning you put into making Nationals so much fun. I really enjoyed the opening ceremonies and had so much fun during the competition. I want to congratulate you on doing a wonderful job on organizing the teams. I had such an amazing time in the five museums and want to thank everyone who helped take part in this grand competition.

Thank you,
Adrian Demko
Valparaiso, IN (4th Place)

I just wanted to commend you on your promptness in putting up the results of the competition and the pictures. It's really great that you uploaded everything so fast and so well. The website is a nice compliment to the wonderful competition held in Chicago. I'm from Niles West (Skokie), and I think the whole competition utilized the best of Chicago. It was a great experience, and I'm glad it's all documented in the web site. keep up the great work!

Jenny

Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success!! Check out the web page **(http://www.nso99.uchicago.edu/)** for competitive results and cool pictures of the competition!!

Submitted by **Johanna Krynytzky**

ATTENTION ALL INTERNS

You are invited to attend...

The Intern Lunch
Thursday, June 24, 1999
12 noon-1:30
East Terrace**

Meet and mingle with other summer interns while learning about new developments at The Field.

RSVP to Human Resources by Tuesday, June 22 at ext. 7281.

**The East Terrace is located outside the North Door to the right.

If there is rain, the lunch will be held in Lecture Hall 2.